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barn and along the Fresno River, four had the under parts a dusky white sharply marked off from the color of the upperparts. The other seven had either no modification in color or the modification was very slight. Of four house mice examined at Pacific Grove, three showed pale reddish buff underparts and the other showed no modification. Two house mice taken at Pismo, San Luis Obispo County, and about fifty taken at Tracy, San Joaquin County, showed no modification. I know of no record of this color modification outside of the state of California.

Besides the modification of the color of the ventral surface, two specimens of house mice from California show the assumption of the dark longitudinal dorsal stripe described by Allen for *Mus musculus jalapæ*. One of these specimens is from New River, Salton Sea, collected by Frank Stephens, and shows a wide dark dorsal stripe with no modification of the ventral surface. Another house mouse from the same locality taken at the same time does not have any indication of the dorsal stripe. The other specimen of the *jalapæ* type is from Madera, Madera County, and in addition to a narrow dark dorsal stripe, has dusky white underparts sharply marked off from the color of the sides so that the color of both back and belly is modified.

These instances seem to indicate that the house mouse is undergoing modification in some localities, and it may be that important results will be obtained by the study of the progress of this modification.

LEE R. DICE

July, 1911

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

THE second annual meeting of the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies was held at Stanford University, Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, 1912. Eight of the eleven constituent societies held sessions: Technical Society of the Pacific, the Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America, the Seismological Society of America, Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical

Association, the Pacific Slope Association of Economic Entomologists, Pacific Coast Paleontological Society, Biological Society of the Pacific Coast and the California Section of the American Chemical Society. The other societies were either unable to hold or not desirous of holding sessions at this meeting. With the association met also the San Francisco Section of the American Mathematical Society.

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific was elected to membership in the association. This makes the association represent a membership of over 2,000 persons.

The officers of the executive committee elected for 1912-13 are Otto von Geldern, chairman; George D. Louderback, vice-chairman and J. N. Bowman, secretary-treasurer.

Berkeley was selected as the suggested place for the third annual meeting in 1913; and the suggested time was temporarily placed in the spring of that year—the definite date is to be determined later.

The general session of the association was held on Saturday evening in the chapel of the university. In the absence of President Jordan, Dr. Branner, vice-president, gave the address of welcome. Director William Wallace Campbell, of the Lick Observatory, gave an address on "Recent Studies of the Stellar System." He gave the latest views and theories as based on the observations and work done at Mount Hamilton and elsewhere. Professor Ewald Flügel, of Stanford University, read a paper on "Scientific Lexicography," wherein he traced the lexicographical work from the thirteenth century to the present; he discussed the standards that were used by the Grimm brothers in their work, and which formed the basis of all the later activity in lexicography and raised this subject to the rank of a science. Professor Andrew Cowper Lawson, of the University of California, gave the last address of the session on "Recent Views on the Archæan Rocks of Canada." Twenty years ago he examined these rocks for the Canadian government. Lately his findings and views have been brought into question. Last summer he went over the field again, at the instance of the Canadian government, with the result that he is led to corroborate his former findings and views.

J. N. BOWMAN,
Secretary

BERKELEY, CAL.,
April, 1912